



MINISTRY OF FAMILY
AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Danish Veterinary
and Food Administration

United States Department of Agriculture
APHIS, Veterinary Services
National Center for Import and Export
Regionalization Evaluation Services Staff, Unit 38
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Att. Dr. Chip Welles

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Clarification of questions submitted to the European Commission 2 September 2004 in connection with Danish request for being recognized free of Newcastle disease

USDA has addressed a number of questions to Dr. Alejandro Checchi-Lang, European Commission for further clarification in connection with Denmark's request for being recognized free of Newcastle disease after the outbreak in 2002. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has received the request and has after agreement with the European Commission submitted the answers directly to APHIS.

The clarification of the five areas pointed out by the APHIS review team is presented below.

- 1) The document indicates that as a result of the 2002 outbreak, Denmark has instituted compulsory serological testing of pullets for Newcastle disease (ND). Are all samples being tested at the Danish Veterinary Institute (DVI)?

Yes, all samples are tested at DVI now with a new name: Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research.

Does Denmark's ND surveillance plan now include routine serological testing on all poultry samples submitted to DVI for diagnostic evaluation?

Yes, in Denmark all parent and grandparent herds to the layer and broiler chicken production are tested serologically for ND once a year - before they start producing hatching eggs according to Order no. 124 of 5 March 1996 on "the construction and management of hatcheries and hatching egg producing enterprises with poultry, turkeys, geese and ducks". All pullets are tested before movement according to Order no. 351 of 14 August 2002 on "the construction and management of enterprises with breeding of pullets for table egg production". Birds imported to zoos or pet shops (bird importers) are serologically tested before release from quarantine. In addition, all samples taken in connection with clinical suspicion of ND are tested. If the tests are positive, virological examinations are performed in order to try to isolate the virus and determine the virulence.

Does the surveillance plan also require sampling of birds prior to shipment in live bird markets, and in commercial all flocks?

No, the program does not require sampling of birds prior to shipment to live markets, but in all commercial flock the pullets are tested before shipment.

- 2) The document concludes: “Finally, the ND-non-vaccination policy is currently under discussion”. What is the status of this policy and under what circumstances would Denmark consider vaccination for ND?

Denmark is planning to initiate vaccination against Newcastle disease as of 15 October 2004. The ND-vaccination will be compulsory for all the commercial flocks except for broilers kept inside and slaughtered before they reach the age of 8 weeks. In the traditional production of broilers there is a high level of biosecurity and the animals have a lifespan for approximately 6 weeks, meaning that a complete vaccination scheme cannot be completed. However, if the broilers have access to the outdoor facilities or if they according to the production plan are to be older than 8 weeks before slaughter they have to be vaccinated.

A serological test will be conducted in layers and parent stocks at the age of 23-25 weeks in order to control proper vaccination.

For non-commercial flocks vaccination will be compulsory for poultry that are going to participate in any kind of gathering (exhibitions, markets, shows etc.) We recommend the whole flock being vaccinated and not only the single bird participating in a gathering.

The vaccination program has been elaborated in close contact with the poultry industry, which also will be responsible for the management of and costs associated with the program

- 3) In the rapport, Danish authorities state their intention “to carry out a campaign among poultry dealers in 2004, to ensure that they record and keep the compulsory information about the purchases of all traded poultry”. Please provide a description of this campaign. How will record-keeping compliance be monitored? How will effectiveness of the campaign be measured? What consequences will dealers face if their records are found to be deficient?

The Danish Order no. 43 of 29 January 2004 “on supplementary provisions for poultry dealing”, lays down conditions for trade with poultry.

In accordance with this order poultry dealers have to:

- *Be registered by the regional veterinary authority.*
- *Keep records in which the origin and the destination of the poultry, the buyer and the seller, the transporters, date, and further information of the animals are registered.*

Furthermore the organizers of markets and gatherings of poultry have to:

- *Keep records of the poultry and the owner participating in the gathering.*

- *Ensure that the dealers are registered by the Regional Veterinary Authorities.*

During the 2004 campaign every veterinary region of the DVFA have to carry out extraordinary official control on gatherings with poultry, especially gatherings where trade with poultry are expected. The control must include at least 50 % of the amount of poultry the Regional Veterinary Authorities expect to be traded within their jurisdiction. The Regional Veterinary Authorities also have the opportunity to control the poultry dealer on other locations than gatherings.

The Regional Veterinary Authorities have to report to the DVFA on:

- *The number of gatherings where poultry are traded.*
- *The number of controlled gatherings.*
- *The number of poultry dealers on every gathering.*
- *The number of poultry traded on every gathering.*
- *The number of poultry controlled on every gathering.*
- *An estimate for the total number of poultry traded in the veterinary region.*
- *The sanction if the veterinary region finds that the statutory order no. 43 is off-ended.*

In accordance with the statutory order no. 43, offences against the order can be sanctioned with a fine.

The result of the campaign will be compiled when the campaign is finalised at the end of the year.

- 4) Figure 9 of the report uses a color-coded legend to describe the series of six restricted zones. Please provide a color copy of the entire report.

We have enclosed 5 colour copies of the report.

- 5) Please provide additional details regarding the serological ND surveillance conducted in 2003 and to date in 2004. How many samples have been tested, and from which areas of the country did the samples originate? Under what circumstances were the samples collected? In conducting the surveillance program, are samples collected from slaughter blood? From suspect cases? From live birds?

The table presented below shows the distribution per county (see map annex 1) of the number of serological ND samples taken in 2003 and to date 2004. The samples have been collected according to the schemes mentioned under point 1. Most of the samples are from the commercial poultry sector while a minor part has been collected from birds in quarantine or in connection with clinical suspicions. All the samples are taken from live birds. Approximately 500 of the 18566 samples collected in 2003 originate from

quarantines or clinical suspicions. For 2004 these figures have so far reach approximately 250 out of 16156.

Amt (County)	No ND samples 2003	No ND samples 2004
<i>Københavns amt</i>	425	261
<i>Frederiksborg amt</i>	276	62
<i>Roskilde amt</i>	240	120
<i>Vestsjællands amt</i>	1050	966
<i>Storstrøms amt</i>	2121	1679
<i>Bornholms amt</i>	361	361
<i>Fyns amt</i>	855	484
<i>Sønderjyllands amt</i>	1115	2137
<i>Ribe amt</i>	1133	678
<i>Vejle amt</i>	1066	1274
<i>Ringkøbing amt</i>	973	540
<i>Århus amt</i>	814	793
<i>Viborg amt</i>	2356	1567
<i>Nordjyllands amt</i>	5781	5234
	18566	16156

On behalf of Dr. Preben Willeberg, CVO

Yours faithfully

Dr. Stig Møllergaard
Chief advisor

Annex 1. Geographical distribution of the Danish “amter” – counties

